

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Transport system, comprising
 - a transport track ~~(9)~~ formed by at least one running rail ~~(1, 2)~~,
 - ~~at least one several~~ vehicles ~~(3)~~ to be transported, and
 - a ~~running~~ rolling device connected to each vehicle and arranged on the said at least one running rail so as to be able to ~~run~~ roll thereon, the vehicle ~~(3)~~ provided with the ~~running~~ rolling device having a rolling resistance ~~to running~~ on the said at least one rail ~~(1, 2)~~,
 - the said transport track ~~(8, 9)~~ having ~~at least one several~~ descending track section sections, ~~(14, 14', 14'', 14''')~~ each descending track section having ~~sufficient a slope so that is sufficient to overcome~~ the said rolling resistance ~~to running~~ of each vehicle ~~is overcome~~, each vehicle thus ~~running~~ rolling on the said at least one descending section by simple gravity,

characterised in that the transport track has a starting point ~~(10)~~ and an arrival point ~~(11)~~, said arrival point having an altitude elevation equal to or higher than the starting point, and comprises several sections of descending track ~~(14', 14'', 14''')~~

in that between said descending track sections ~~which~~ there is in each case arranged a section of ascending track ~~(12', 12'', 12''')~~ on which each vehicle provided with the ~~running~~ rolling device is driven by a driving device,

-in that the slope of each section of descending track ~~being is~~ insufficient to produce a continuous acceleration of the said ~~at least one said vehicle vehicles (3)~~ on the said at least one

~~running rail (1,2), each vehicle having there a substantially constant speed, balanced by at which gravity is in balance with the said rolling resistance of each vehicle to running with added to other-resistancees resistances, added, such as including the air resistance to air of the vehicle (3), and~~

~~in that the transport track (9) having has a route along which no vehicle at any point is raised higher than the altitude-elevation that the vehicle would have at this point on the a transport track having a single descending section (14) between the starting point and the arrival point, provided with the above-mentioned same slope as said several descending track sections between the starting point and the arrival point, and~~

~~in that said transport system it comprises means for balancing the speed of two successive vehicles on said descending track sections, so as to maintain a distance between said two successive vehicles, said means for balancing the speed of two successive vehicles on said descending track sections comprising at least one endless cable returned freely in a loop by pulleys along the transport track and clamps arranged on each vehicle to grip the cable and drive the vehicle during transport.~~

2. (original): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the above-mentioned slope is at least 3/1000, preferably at least 4/1000.

3. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the ~~above-mentioned slope of said several descending track sections~~ is constant over each descending section.

4. (previously presented): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the constant speed of the said at least one vehicle on the descending sections is around 30 to 50 km/h, preferably around 40 km/h.

5. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the driving devices drive each vehicle on the ascending track sections at a speed equal to ~~the above-mentioned said~~ substantially constant speed of the vehicle on the descending track sections.

6. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the transport track comprises, at least on ~~some sections~~ one section, support means (6) for an overhead rail ~~(1, 2)~~ and in that each vehicle is suspended from this overhead rail by the ~~running~~ rolling device.

7. (currently amended): Transport system according to claim 1, characterised in that the said at least one vehicle is a container ~~(3)~~ to be transported which has a volume with ~~standard overall dimensions~~, and in that the ~~running~~ rolling device is fixed to the container in ~~such a~~ manner that it can be folded in into the above-mentioned volume of the container, in the idle position of the when the container is at rest.

8. (canceled).

9. (currently amended): Transport system according to ~~claim 8,~~ claim 1, characterised in that the means of balancing the speed of two successive vehicles comprise at least one endless cable returned freely in a loop by pulleys along the transport track and clamps arranged on each vehicle to grip the cable and drive the ~~latter vehicle during its transportation~~ transport.

10. (currently amended): ~~Use of A~~ method of using a transport system according to claim 1, for transporting vehicles over long distances making parsimonious use ~~parsimoniously~~ of the potential energies energy, comprising the steps of a reading of the a geographic relief between the departure point and the arrival point of the transport track of said transport system and a ~~determination determining a of the route of for said the~~ transport track on the basis of this

reading, so that ~~as to minimize the number of it has the said slope on the said descending sections and a minimum number of ascending sections on said transport track.~~

11. (new) Transport system according to claim 1, wherein said starting point and arrival point are different, so that the transport track does not form a closed loop.